



ESTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

TOGETHER WITH THE

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1938.

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MAY, 1939.



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# THE URBAN DISTRICT OF ESTON.

**Chairman of the Council:** Councillor P. McPARTLAN, J.P.

## **PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE:**

**Chairman:** Councillor WALTER EVANS.

### **Committee:**

The whole of the Members of the Council constitute the Public Health Committee.

## **PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT:**

**\*Medical Officer of Health:** JAMES A. DUNLOP, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

**\*Senior Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent:** WILLIAM LINSLEY, R.C.P., C.R.S.I. (Meat and Food).

**\*Additional Sanitary Inspectors:** ALFRED KING, C.R.S.I. (Meat and Food).  
R. E. V. WARRAND, Cert. S.I.B. (appointed 1st September, 1938).

**Clerks:** W. VERRILL.  
MISS O. CAMERON.

**Matron of Infectious Diseases Hospital:** MISS A. M. WRATTEN.

\*Contributions to Salary from Exchequer.

## **ADOPTIVE ACTS IN FORCE WITHIN THE ESTON URBAN DISTRICT:**

Private Street Works Act, 1892.

Public Libraries Act, 1892 to 1918.

and the unrepealed sections of the following Acts:—

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907.

Public Health Act, 1925.

## **BYE-LAWS:**

Bye-laws made by the Eston Urban Council and allowed by the Ministry of Health on the eleventh day of February, 1932:—

New Streets and Buildings; Mortuaries; Common Lodging Houses; Slaughter Houses; Offensive Trades; Houses Let in Lodgings; Nuisances; Removal of Refuse; Hackney Carriages; Parks and Recreation Grounds; Tents, Vans and Sheds.



# ESTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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To the Chairman and Members of the  
Eston Urban District Council.

Councillor Miss Grassham and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my fourth Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of the Urban District during the year 1938. The report has been prepared in accordance with the Ministry of Health Circular 1728.

In my last report I commented on the high Infantile Mortality rate, as will be seen from the report, there has been a gratifying decline this year.

Speaking generally the year under review has, from a health point of view, been quite satisfactory. There has been a fall in the Death Rate, a fall in the Birth Rate and a considerable decrease in the incidence of Infectious Diseases, particularly Scarlet Fever. In addition there has been a small decrease in the number of new cases of Tuberculosis notified during the year.

I would take this opportunity of thanking all the members of the Council for their support and encouragement. In particular I appreciate the great help given to me by the Chairman of the Health Committee and the Chairman of the Housing Committee. I wish also to express my thanks to my colleagues in the other departments of the Council for their helpful co-operation and to the Staff of the Health Department and to the Matron and Staff of the Isolation Hospital for their loyal support.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES A. DUNLOP,

Medical Officer of Health.



## SECTION "A."

### STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITION OF THE AREA.

The statistics required for the preparation of this report are based on the statistics supplied by the Registrar-General, who estimates that the population in the mid-year 1938 was 30,690 as compared with 30,540 in the mid-year 1937.

Registrar-General's estimate (mid) 1932	...	31,050
Registrar-General's estimate (mid) 1933	...	31,070
Registrar-General's estimate (mid) 1934	...	30,880
Registrar-General's estimate (mid) 1935	...	30,620
Registrar-General's estimate (mid) 1936	...	30,420
Registrar-General's estimate (mid) 1937	...	30,540
Registrar-General's estimate (mid) 1938	...	30,690

### GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of the district (acres)	...	5,559
Registrar-General's estimated population at mid-year 1938	...	30,690
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1938)		
according to Rate Books	...	<del>2,083</del> 8,083
Rateable Value (at September 1938)	...	£124,230
Sum represented by penny rate	...	£440

### SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

As is well known to all, the chief industries carried on in the Urban District are ironstone mining and steel manufacture, shipbuilding and repairing. Unfortunately the iron and steel trade was not very brisk during the year and there was in fact a considerable amount of unemployment. The evidence of this is shown by the fact that £3,000 more was spent in Poor Relief in 1938 as compared with the previous year. I have no evidence, statistical or otherwise, that this unemployment has exercised any significant influence on the health of the community in general and I am convinced that the provision of free milk in schools to the children of the unemployed has done much to maintain a satisfactory standard in the general physique of the school children. The provision of milk foods free at the Child Welfare Centres and Ante-Natal Clinics to the wives of the unemployed is, in my opinion, a valuable contribution and a useful effort to minimise the possibilities of ill health resulting from poverty and unemployment.



## EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

### BIRTHS.

<b>Live Births.</b>					Total	M.	F.
Legitimate ...	...	...	...	...	606	306	300
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	19	11	8
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimate resident population: 20. (Rate for England and Wales: 15.1)							

<b>Still Births.</b>					Total	M.	F.
Legitimate ...	...	...	...	...	27	14	13
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	1	1	—
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births: 43.2.							

### DEATHS.

Total	M.	F.
337	187	150

Death rate per 1,000 of the estimate resident population: 11.1.  
(Rate for England and Wales: 11.6)

### DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES.

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Births
Puerperal Sepsis ...	1	1.5
Other Puerperal causes ...	1	1.5
Total	2	3.0

### **Death Rates of Infants under 1 year of age:**

All infants per 1,000 live births ...	40
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	39.6
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	50
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ...	43
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ...	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years) ...	—

It is a pleasure to have to record that there has been a marked decrease in the Infantile Mortality Rate, i.e., a death rate amongst infants in their first year of life. 25 infants under one year died in 1938 as compared with 46 in 1937. This gives an infantile mortality rate of 40 as compared with 73 in the previous year. The Infantile Mortality Rate for the whole country is 58. It would be fallacious to consider these figures as a definite proof of a striking and permanent reduction in the deaths of infants, we must remember that we are dealing with a small community. Nevertheless it is much more pleasing to have to record a reduction than to have to record an increase. There is still need to stress the importance of Ante-Natal care as the majority of the deaths in infants are due to Ante-Natal causes. It is essential that all expectant mothers should be under medical supervision during pregnancy. It is only by such supervision that the earliest departures from the normal can be detected and put right. The medical practitioners in the area are only too willing to advise expectant mothers and there are in the area, in addition, Ante-Natal Clinics run by the County Council.

#### INFANT MORTALITY RATES OF WARDS.

Ward				No. of Births during 1938	No. of Deaths under 1 year	Rate per 1,000 live births
North West ... ..	...	...	...	62	5	80.6
Harcourt ... ..	...	...	...	51	1	19.8
South Bank ... ..	...	...	...	55	2	36.3
Branch ... ..	...	...	...	37	3	81.0
Central ... ..	...	...	...	161	8	49.6
Normanby ... ..	...	...	...	63	1	15.8
Grangetown ... ..	...	...	...	109	3	27.5
Tilery ... ..	...	...	...	87	2	23.0

# ANALYSIS OF INFANTILE MORTALITY, 1938.

Cause of Death	Under 1 wk.	1-2 wks.	2-3 wks.	3-4 wks.	Total under 4 weeks	1-3 mth.	3-6 mth.	6-9 mth.	9-12 mth.	Total deaths under 1 year
Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	2
Convulsions ...	1	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Marasmus ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Congenital										
Debility ...	3	—	1	—	4	—	2	—	—	6
Prematurity ...	4	2	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	6
Inanition ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Heart Failure	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Icterus										
Neonatorum	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Intussusception	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Asphyxia ...	2	—	1	—	3	—	—	—	—	3
Cerebral										
Hæmorrhage	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Totals	14	2	4	—	20	1	3	1	—	25

## ANALYSIS OF DEATHS IN AGE GROUPS.

Dividing the total deaths which occurred during the year into age groups, I find that:—

There were 25 deaths under one year of age.

11 deaths over 1 year and under 5 years of age.

5 deaths over 5 years and under 10 years of age.

4 deaths over 10 years and under 15 years of age.

12 deaths over 15 years and under 25 years of age.

41 deaths over 25 years and under 45 years of age.

101 deaths over 45 years and under 65 years of age.

81 deaths over 65 years and under 75 years of age.

56 deaths over 75 years and under 90 years of age.

1 death over 90 years and under 95 years of age.

## CAUSES OF DEATH.

	M.	F.
Typhoid and para-typhoid fever ... ..	—	—
Measles ... ..	—	—
Scarlet Fever ... ..	1	—
Whooping Cough ... ..	1	—
Diphtheria ... ..	—	—
Influenza ... ..	—	1
Encephalitis Lethargica ... ..	—	1
Cerebro Spinal Fever ... ..	—	1
Respiratory Tuberculosis ... ..	18	8
Other Tubercular diseases ... ..	3	2
Syphilis ... ..	4	2
General Paralysis of the insane, etc. ... ..	1	—
Cancer, malignant disease ... ..	23	20
Diabetes ... ..	2	2
Cerebral hemorrhage ... ..	9	13
Heart diseases ... ..	40	39
Aneurysm ... ..	1	—
Other circulatory diseases ... ..	12	14
Bronchitis ... ..	4	3
Pneumonia (all forms) ... ..	23	15
Other respiratory diseases ... ..	—	—
Peptic ulcer ... ..	2	1
Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years) ... ..	—	—
Appendicitis ... ..	2	—
Cirrhosis of liver ... ..	1	—

### CAUSES OF DEATH—continued.

	M.	F.
Other liver diseases ... ..	1	2
Other digestive diseases ... ..	1	3
Acute and chronic nephritis ... ..	4	4
Puerperal sepsis ... ..	—	1
Other puerperal causes ... ..	—	1
Congenital debility, premature birth, malformation, etc. ... ..	8	9
Senility ... ..	5	2
Suicide ... ..	2	—
Other violence ... ..	8	1
Other defined causes ... ..	15	5
Causes ill-defined or unknown ... ..	—	—

### POOR LAW RELIEF.

The amount of Poor Law Relief paid during the year 1938 was £28,339 4s. 1d. Details of this amount are set out below:—

	£	s.	d.
<b>South Bank and Normanby</b>			
Nos. 1 and 2 Districts ... ..	13,327	4	7
<b>South Bank and Grangetown</b>			
No. 4 District ... ..	5,397	5	9
<b>Grangetown</b>			
No. 3 District ... ..	7,852	3	9
<b>Eston</b>			
No. 6 District ... ..	1,762	10	0
Total ...	£28,339	4	1

### LUNATICS (REMOVAL EXPENSES).

	£	s.	d.
<b>South Bank District</b>			
No. 2 District ... ..	4	5	0
<b>Grangetown</b>			
Nos. 3 and 4 Districts ... ..	15	11	4
<b>Eston</b>			
No. 6 District ... ..	2	11	6
Total ...	£22	7	10

## **SECTION " B."**

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### **GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.**

The details of the Staff are incorporated at the beginning of the Report.

### **LABORATORY FACILITIES.**

As in former years the laboratory work was done at the North Riding Laboratory, Scarborough, and the Lister Institute, London. So far as this district is concerned this relates chiefly to the laboratory examination of milk and work in connection with infectious diseases. During the year 44 milk samples were submitted for bacteriological examination and 113 Diphtheria throat swabs were examined. It will be useful here to note that the North Riding County Council are responsible for the following bacteriological services:—

- (1) Tuberculosis work ... at the Laboratory, County Hall, Northallerton.
- (2) The examination of Gonorrhoeal smears at the North Riding Laboratory, Scarborough.
- (3) Wasserman Tests at the Bacteriological Department, Medical School, Leeds.

### **AMBULANCE FACILITIES.**

For Infectious Diseases the Council has at present 2 ambulances. For the general needs of the district an ambulance is provided and maintained by the St. John's Ambulance Brigade. I am indebted to the Superintendent of the Brigade for the following brief report on the ambulance services provided by the brigade during the year:—

"The work of our motor ambulance has been well maintained and another record has been broken this year by carrying 590 patients, 530 of these were conveyed between their homes and the local hospitals, 27 were works accidents and 33 road accidents. The ambulance travelled 5,931 miles during the year. The number of hours of their leisure given by the men in this work alone was 1,450. I feel also that I should say how much we appreciate the very valuable contributions made to our funds by the Eston Urban District Council."



In paying tribute to the splendid voluntary services rendered by the St. John's Ambulance Brigade in this district, I think it is appropriate to mention here the invaluable assistance given by the members of the Brigade in acting as instructors to our A.R.P. volunteers in connection with the Casualty Services. I think that it is very desirable that all our volunteers who have been trained in First Aid work should keep themselves in touch with it and I would strongly advise them that the best way to do this is to become permanent members of the St. John's Ambulance Brigade. I know very well that they will be warmly welcomed.

### **NURSING IN THE HOMES.**

As in previous years the area is served by three Nursing Associations in South Bank, Grangetown and Eston and Normanby.

On referring to the work done by these associations one notices that all three associations show a considerable increase in the work done in connection with Maternity and Midwifery. It would seem then that the Midwives Act, which is administered by the County Council, is increasing the demands made upon the Nursing Associations. This is all to the good as it is most desirable that at all midwifery cases there should be a qualified midwife as is provided by the Nursing Associations. I am still of the opinion, particularly with reference to the Midwifery Service, that it would be an advantage to the district if all three associations were combined.

With regard to the General Nursing Services undertaken by the Nursing Associations, I hardly think it is necessary for me to say more than that this is a most essential and valuable service rendered to the District. Since this service is purely voluntary it can only be continued on a voluntary basis if the inhabitants of the district support the associations generously.

The following is a brief statement of the activities of the Nursing Associations in the area.

#### **South Bank Association.**

Four whole-time fully qualified nurses are employed who made the following visits during the year:—

	Visits
General ... ..	6,208
Midwifery and Maternity ...	4,027
Tuberculosis ... ..	827
Ante-Natal ... ..	624
Casual Visits ... ..	56
Welfare Centres, etc. ...	8
	<hr/>
	11,753
	<hr/>

**Eston, Ormesby and Wilton Association.**

This Association employs two whole-time fully qualified nurses who made the following visits during the year:—

	Visits
General ... ..	2,728
Midwifery and Maternity ...	1,934
Post and Ante-Natal ...	1,124
Casual Visits ... ..	171
Welfare Centres, etc. ...	61
	<hr/>
	6,018
	<hr/>

**Grangetown Association.**

This Association employs two whole-time fully qualified nurses who made the following visits during the year:—

	Visits
General ... ..	3,794
Maternity and Midwifery ...	3,183
Ante-Natal ... ..	1,075
Post-Natal ... ..	475
Sundry ... ..	280
Welfare Clinics ... ..	3
	<hr/>
	8,810
	<hr/>

**CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.**

All Clinics and Treatment Centres in the area are administered by the North Riding County Council.

**HOSPITALS—PUBLIC AND VOLUNTARY.**

Apart from the Infectious Disease Hospital, there is no hospital in the area belonging to the local authority or with which the local authority have made arrangements for the admission of patients.

**THE NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO CHILDREN.**

While this Council is not a Child Welfare Authority, they are nevertheless interested in all matters appertaining to the welfare of children, and I am pleased to put on record the following report from the Inspector of the Middlesbrough Branch of the N.S.P.C.C.:—

“For the 12 months ending December, 1938, this Branch dealt with 13

new cases and 27 children in the Eston Urban District. In order to obtain the necessary results 55 visits of supervision were made."

It gives me great pleasure here to express my appreciation of the work done by the Inspector of the N.S.P.C.C. who is at all times most willing to give us his help for the benefit of the children.

### **PROPAGANDA IN PUBLIC HEALTH.**

Since this Council is not the authority having control over Education, Maternity and Child Welfare or Tuberculosis Services our scope for propaganda is somewhat limited. My own personal opinion is that the best form of propaganda is done by informal talks to such bodies as Toc H, Co-operative Guilds, Sisterhoods and Rotarians, and for that reason I have always been very willing to address such bodies when asked to do so. In almost all cases the labour involved in the preparation of such addresses is amply repaid by the interest shown, and I consider that this is one of the most important duties of a Medical Officer of Health.

### **SECTION "C."**

Details of the various sanitary circumstances under this section are further reported on in the report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

#### **Water.**

There were no new sources of the public water supply or any important extension of mains during the year.

3 samples of water were taken from the tap of a dwelling-house and submitted for analysis, the result of which indicated that the water was of good quality and suitable for human consumption.

#### **DETAILS OF ANALYSTS' CERTIFICATE.**

Marked "Sample of Water."

				Parts per 100,000
Free Ammonia	...	...	...	0.0020
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	0.0090
Chlorine as Chlorides	...	...	...	1.1000
Nitrogen as Nitrites and Nitrates	...	...	...	0.0486
Total solids				9.0000
Oxygen absorption	...	...	...	0.7605
Colour and appearance in 2ft. tube	Faint Brown. Clear.			
Odour when heated to 50 degrees C.	None.			

### **Microscopical Examination.**

A slight deposit from half a gallon of water consisted of vegetable debris.

### **Bacteriological Examination.**

Number of colonies on Nutrient Agar at 37 deg.	
C. after 72 hours	4 per ml.
Number of colonies on Nutrient Agar at 20/22 deg. C. after 72 hours	26 per ml.
Presumptive B. Coli test at 37 deg. C. after 72 hours	Positive in 20 ml.
Clostridium Welchii test at 45 deg. C.	Negative in 40 ml.
Streptococci Test	Negative.

### **Observations.**

Judging from the results of the chemical examination there is no evidence of pollution of this sample of water by sewage or other foul drainage.

The results of the bacteriological examination afford no evidence of contamination by organisms of the intestinal type, and, therefore, judged by this examination it is free from pollution by sewage or other foul drainage.

per pro E. W. JACKSON and A. SCHOLLES.

A. SCHOLLES.

Public Analysts.

### **Drainage and Sewerage.**

In my last annual report I stressed the importance to this district of an adequate sewerage system. I understand that plans have been prepared as an alternative to the construction of a new main sewer to relieve the existing overloaded sewer. It is to be hoped that this scheme will solve what appears to me to be a very serious problem.

### **Rivers and Streams.**

The only river within your area is the River Tees which forms the northern boundary of your district, and is within the tidal flow stretch from the sea. Under the circumstances, any pollution does not come within your Authority's jurisdiction.

### **Closet Accommodation.**

With slight exception the closet accommodation is on the water carriage system and has been so for about thirteen years. There are a small number of closets on the conservancy system but these are at premises which are not within reasonable distance from the sewer.



### **Public Cleansing.**

The cleansing services of your district are well organised; no change of policy or extension of the service took place during the year. A small number of houses (approximately 24) in your district are drained into cesspools which are cleansed and kept in order by the owners.

### **Sanitary Inspection of the Area.**

Details under this heading show that inspections in all branches of the work were well maintained during the year.

### **Shops.**

Careful attention has been given to the condition of shops in the area. In particular, attention has been paid to tenancy of premises above and behind shops, and the provision of adequate and separate sanitary conveniences and washing facilities has been insisted upon.

### **Smoke Abatement.**

In previous annual reports much has been said about the effects of the smoke and fumes from the Coke Oven Plants. It is very disappointing to have to record each year that there is no improvement. It would seem that the powers of a local authority are so limited in this connection that no really effective steps can be taken by them to abate what, in my own opinion, whatever the legal interpretation may be, is a nuisance. It seems to me all wrong that such pollution of the atmosphere should be allowed. I am not an engineer, but I do feel that, having regard to the undoubted brilliance shown by industrial engineers in the making of plant, etc., it should not be beyond them to devise means to reduce the smoke nuisance. Is it true that smoke is essential to Industrial Efficiency? I do think that the Central Health Authority should take a strong line in this connection and if necessary introduce legislation to deal with it adequately.

In conclusion I would again draw the Authority's attention to the fact that their own offices at Cleveland House are very much affected by the grit and fumes from the works and I do consider the Council, as employers, should seriously consider the question of improving the working conditions of their employees.

### **Swimming Baths and Pools.**

In my last annual report I made reference to the fact that facilities for swimming were not provided for the public in this area. It is pleasing to have to report that the Authority have taken a forward step in this matter and that at the moment plans are actually deposited with the responsible authority for the provision of a swimming pool in this area.

### **Eradication of Bed Bugs.**

Advice and practical assistance was given in all cases of infestation of houses with bed bugs.

				Infested	Disinfested
(1)	No. of Council houses	...	...	6	6
	No. of other houses	...	...	57	57
(2)	The methods employed in disinfection are fumigation and spraying.				
(3)	All prospective Council house tenants are visited and where there appears to be any infestation of their houses or belongings, fumigation is carried out before removal takes place.				
(4)	All disinfection work is carried out by the Urban District Council.				

### **Schools.**

The sanitary conditions and water supply of the elementary schools in your area need no comment. They are under the control of the North Riding County Council, who make periodical inspections and arrange their own alterations and repairs.

### **FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.**

The supervision of workshops and workplaces under the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, and the Factories Act, 1937 (which superseded the Act of 1901 on 1st July, 1938) received continual attention during the year. Routine inspections were made by the Sanitary Inspector, who reports that he had no difficulty with the occupiers to have any defects remedied.

### **INSPECTIONS MADE BY THE SANITARY INSPECTOR (HOME OFFICE FORM 572).**

	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories (with mechanical power)	11	4	—
Factories (without mechanical power) ... ..	57	8	—
Other Premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers' premises) ... ..	13	—	—
Total ...	81	12	—



**Defects Found:—**

Particulars.	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	No of Defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted.
Want of Cleanliness ...	8	8	—	—
Overcrowding ...	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation ...	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors ...	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences—				
Insufficient ...	1	1	—	—
Unsuitable or defective	3	3	—	—
Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Other offences ...	—	—	—	—
Total ...	12	12	—	—

**OUTWORK IN UNWHOLESOME PREMISES.**

There is only one outworker registered in the district, the work being of an intermittent nature.

**SECTION “ D.”****HOUSING.**

Number of new houses erected during the year:—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b) ...	302
(b) (1) By the Local Authority ...	148
(2) By other bodies or persons ...	154

1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year:—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	1396
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	3564
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 ...	462
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	2413

(3)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	9
(4)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	462
2.	Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:— Number of defective houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority of their officers ... ..	1222
3.	Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—	
(a)	Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ..	7
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
(a)	By Owners ... ..	63
(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners ... ..	30
(b)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts:	
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	—
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
(a)	By Owners ... ..	—
(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners ... ..	—
(c)	Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ..	6
(2)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ..	12
(d)	Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ...	5
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or rooms having been rendered fit ...	—

4. Housing Act, 1936, Part IV—Overcrowding:—

(a)	(1)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of 1937 ...	191
	(2)	Number of families dwelling therein ... ..	208
	(3)	Number of persons dwelling therein ... ..	1392
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during 1938 ... ..	103
(c)	(1)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during 1938	236
	(2)	Number of persons concerned in such cases ... ..	1593
(d)		Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	—
(e)		Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report ... ..	—

**OVERCROWDING.**

During the year under review this Council have rehoused 147 families from overcrowded conditions. In addition 89 families have themselves abated the overcrowding, either by removal or by a reduction occurring in the particular family. At the end of the year there were 58 families living under overcrowded conditions and of these 51 families have refused to move. In the three years since the Overcrowding Survey of 1936 this Council have found 514 cases of overcrowding, they have rehoused 239 cases and 217 cases have themselves abated the overcrowding. It is hoped that the Normanby Road Housing Scheme will meet the objections of the majority of the 51 cases who have refused to move, so that when this scheme is completed it is expected that the amount of overcrowding in this district will be negligible. I think that this Council's record in the matter of dealing with overcrowding is indeed a good one.

## **SECTION " E."**

### **INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.**

Records of the work carried out under the various headings of the section are recorded in the report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

#### **Milk Supply.**

Routine inspection was made of the farms and dairies during the year and a number of samples were examined for bacterial count. Samples of milk were taken for tubercle bacilli by the appropriate officials of the North Riding County Council.

#### **Meat and Other Foods.**

All premises used for the preparation, storage or sale of foods were kept under careful supervision. A full resumé of the activities of the Department in this direction appears later in the report.

#### **Adulteration, etc.**

With the exception of milk sampling, no further action was taken under the various Regulations 1927-1929.

#### **Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.**

Milk was the only food submitted for bacteriological examination. This is referred to under the heading of " Milk Supply." The examinations were carried out at the North Riding Laboratories at Scarborough.

#### **Nutrition.**

No special work was carried out on the subject of nutrition. Various leaflets were distributed at the various Clinic Centres.

#### **Shellfish.**

There are no shellfish beds or layings within the district and no action has been taken under the Public Health (Shellfish) Regulations, 1934, or the Public Health (Cleansing of Shellfish) Act, 1932.

## **SECTION " F."**

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### **PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.**

As compared with the previous year there has been a considerable decrease in the number of cases of Scarlet Fever, the number notified being less than half the number notified in the previous year, in actual figures 79 cases were notified in 1938 as compared with 238 in 1937. While one is pleased to record such a reduction, it should be pointed out that one cannot read into these figures anything in the nature of congratulations to anyone. The very mild phase Scarlet Fever is passing through at present makes it at once difficult to discover and to control. On the subject of Scarlet Fever I wish to put before the Authority some views on the hospital treatment of Scarlet Fever as expressed in the last Annual Report of the Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health who states " but at the moment in many districts rash notification and removal are almost synonymous terms in spite of the practice being repeatedly deprecated by the Ministry who hold that, whenever possible, uncomplicated cases of Scarlet Fever should be treated at home." I place this sound view before you because, apart from being in absolute agreement with the view expressed, I consider that the adoption of this principle in this area would leave available beds which are much more urgently needed for the treatment of such diseases as severe Whooping Cough, Pneumonia and complicated cases of Measles.

#### **Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1938.**

Hereinafter is set out in detail an analysis of the notified cases of infectious diseases (other than Tuberculosis) in age groups.



# ANALYSIS OF THE TOTAL NOTIFIED CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) IN AGE GROUPS.

Disease	Total Cases Notified												Total Deaths												
	Under 1 year	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over	Under 1 year	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over	
Scarlet Fever	1	2	6	9	11	30	8	6	4	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria	...	...	1	1	...	6	2	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia	...	3	2	...	1	4	...	...	7	5	9	1	4	2	...	...	...	1	1	...	4	7	14	5	
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	1	2	3	3	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Typhoid (suspected)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia-neonatorum	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Polio-myelitis	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	3	6	10	10	12	11	12	9	17	9	13	7	4	3	...	...	1	2	2	...	4	7	14	6	6



## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following is a table of particulars of infectious diseases treated at the Isolation Hospital during 1938.

Disease				No. of cases admitted	No. in at 31/12/37	No. of cases discharged	No. in hospital at 31/12/38
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	76	28	96	8
Diphtheria	...	...	...	32	1	30	<del>2</del> 3
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	15	—	13	2
Pneumonia	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	...	...	...	3	—	3	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	...	...	2	—	2	—
Measles	...	...	...	3	—	3	—
Chickenpox	...	...	...	2	—	2	—
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	2	—	2	—
Suspected Typhoid and Typhoid				2	—	1	1
Mumps	...	...	...	1	—	1	—
Totals	...	...	...	138	29	153	14

The following cases were admitted from outside districts:—

2 Scarlet Fever, 18 Diphtheria, 2 Poliomyelitis, 1 Typhoid and 13 Puerperal Pyrexia.

## NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE WARDS.

Ward	Disease								
	Scarlet Fever	Pneu- monia	Diph- theria	Ery- sipelas	Puerperal Pyrexia	Cerebro- Spinal Fever	Oph- thalmia Neon- atorum	Polio- myelitis	Suspected Typhoid
North West	8	7	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Grangetown	5	4	2	2	1	1	1	1	—
Normanby	8	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Harcourt	10	5	1	2	—	—	—	—	—
Branch	2	4	2	2	—	—	—	—	—
Central	30	3	7	7	1	2	1	—	1
South Bank	9	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tilery	7	6	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	79	32	14	18	2	3	2	1	1

## Cancer.

The total number of deaths from Cancer during the year was 43, which is one more than the number for 1937.

### Prevention of Blindness.

No action was taken under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

### Tuberculosis.

It was not found necessary to take any action under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, as no person engaged in the milk trade was notified.

## TUBERCULOSIS.

### New Cases and Mortality during 1938.

Particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis notified during the year and of all deaths from this disease are shown in the following table in age groups:—

Age Periods	Cases Notified				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 and 5 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
5 and 10 years ...	—	1	3	6	—	—	1	1
10 and 15 years ...	—	2	3	1	—	2	—	—
15 and 20 years ...	2	—	—	1	1	—	—	1
20 and 25 years ...	1	1	—	—	—	3	—	—
25 and 35 years ...	3	5	—	—	5	—	—	—
35 and 45 years ...	4	3	—	—	5	2	—	—
45 and 55 years ...	3	1	—	—	3	1	1	—
55 and 65 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards ...	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Totals ...	13	14	6	8	17	9	3	2

Of the total number of deaths from Tuberculosis 5 persons had not been previously notified. The deaths from this cause show an increase of 1 on those for the previous year.

**ESTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.**

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**ANNUAL REPORT**

**OF THE**

**SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR**

**FOR THE YEAR 1938.**

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Eston Urban District Council.

Councillor Miss Grassham and Gentlemen,

I herewith submit my Annual Report dealing with the Sanitary circumstances of your District during the year ending 31st December, 1938. The Report is based on lines indicated in the Ministry of Health Circular 1650/127 which deals with the contents of Annual Reports.

A general review of the work shows a year of good sanitary progress although the large amount of time devoted to Housing work prevented more regular routine inspections in other branches with the Staff available. It was therefore found necessary to appoint further assistance and in September an Additional Sanitary Inspector was appointed.

The Public Health Act, 1936, which became operative on 1st October, 1937, did not materially affect our work as it was mostly a consolidating Act and the greater part of our requisitions were carried out by informal action. The Factory Act, 1937, became operative on 1st July, 1938. This Act supersedes the old Factory & Workshops Acts, and the term "Workshop" has now disappeared from recognition. The Act imposes added duties on the occupiers of Factories and Local Authorities and should improve the conditions of the workers. The full benefit of the altered conditions under the Act were not experienced during the year owing to the numerous "Rules and Orders" which were issued periodically and also to the pressure of work in other directions.

New legislation affecting the work of the Department still continues and, although the present year is not far advanced, the Young Persons (Employment) Act 1938, which became operative on 1st January, 1939, and a new consolidated Food & Drugs Act, 1938, which will become operative on 1st October, indicates added legislation involving more work during 1939.

Administrative work and training in connection with Air Raid Precautions continued to receive a good deal of time; much consideration and thought was devoted to the Decontamination branch of the service for which the Department is responsible and the Cleansing personnel forms the nucleus.

The slow progress made in the provision of the requisite equipment and the fitting up of the centres has caused much regret, but I am pleased to report that much progress now appears possible.

The Shops (Sunday Trading Restrictions) Act, 1936, which became operative on 1st May, 1937, contained a long schedule of goods which were exempted from the provisions of the Act. This schedule was curtailed as from 1st February, 1938, and withdrew the sale of bread, rolls, flour, confectionery, groceries, etc., from the exemptions. Details of the work under this and the 1912 to 1934 Acts are dealt with later in the report.

There was no outstanding change of policy in any of the various branches of the Sanitary Services during the year; generally speaking, a reasonable amount of the time available was devoted to all sections of the work. Generally the work progressed quietly and smoothly and I hope with a degree of efficiency satisfactory to the Public in general and your Council in particular.

### **WATER.**

During the year the quality of the water supply was quite satisfactory as was also the general quantity. Complaints were received from the occupiers of several houses in one area that water supply at the week-ends, and particularly on Sundays, was inadequate; this matter was being dealt with by your Council when the year closed.

The water supply to the Eston District is received from the Tees Valley Water Board, who supply the South Bank part of your District through meter and charged to your Council, who in turn levy a charge on the consumers. This is done under an old agreement with the Board. The Eston and Grangetown parts of the District are supplied direct by the Water Board, who collect their own fees from the consumers.

Being upland surface water, it is naturally of a soft nature. The collecting grounds being at the source of the River Tees and taken from the Rivers Lune and Balder. The catchment area covers approximately 30,000 acres, the impounding reservoirs having a capacity of approximately 2,655 million gallons and being situated between 960 and 925 feet above ordnance datum. A new covered in reservoir is at present under construction at Eston which it is hoped will materially benefit the supply.



## **DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.**

A gradual improvement in house drainage has been proceeding for some considerable time, this has been carried out almost unnoticed as the work has been done in an informal manner under the repair of houses requirements of the Housing Act. Whenever Schedules of Repairs are prepared or where yard surfaces need relaying an overhaul of the drainage is included, old silt gulleys are removed and self cleansing gulleys are provided, together with inspection pipes and such inspection chambers as may be necessary. The disposal of the drainage to the sewer is also examined and relaid if it is found to be of unsatisfactory construction. The results of this continual work, more especially in the older houses, is now becoming noticeable and no trouble has been experienced in properties where the reconstruction of the drains has been carried out.

With the exception of extension to the existing sewerage system by private builders and the Council extending housing estates, no alteration was made to the existing sewerage system.

The method of disposal of sewerage is by emptying into the River Tees within tidal flow.

## **CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.**

With the exception of isolated houses, farms, recreation grounds and other such places where drainage is not reasonably possible, the closet accommodation in your area is on the water carriage system, being converted mostly from pail closets 15 years ago.

## **PUBLIC CLEANSING.**

There was no outstanding change of policy in Public Cleansing during the year. The gritting machine which was purchased the previous year proved a considerable help during frosty weather when the long stretches of trunk and district roads were needing attention.

The necessity for purchasing a further refuse collecting vehicle mentioned in my last report was agreed to by your Council and weekly demonstrations were arranged with several makers. The demonstrations under working conditions were carried out late in the year which closed before a decision on the economical suitability of any of the vehicles could be arrived at.



It is pleasing to report that there were no proved genuine complaints during the year arising from neglect in connection with refuse collection, this reflects much credit on the part of the workmen and also on the organisation.

It may be a matter of interest to mention here that although the Cleansing Services are not heard much of, the amount of refuse dealt with in England and Wales is approximately fourteen million tons per annum and gives employment to approximately 70,000 workmen, whilst the expenditure of Local Authorities on this work is in the region of eleven and a half million pounds.

### **Refuse Collection.**

For this work a combination of horse and motor transport is used. The horses are hired and the motors and horse drawn collecting vans are the property of the Council. Three horses and two Ford motor dust vans (special body) have usually been sufficient to carry out a regular system of removing refuse once weekly from houses and twice or more weekly from shops, but during the year it was found necessary to employ an extra horse on many days and an extra motor lorry at least one day each week to cope with the increase of work caused by the building of new houses, and especially at holiday times in order to adhere to the collection time table.

The combination of horse vans and motors has proved very successful owing to the scattered nature of the area. South Bank, being within easy reach of the point of disposal, is served by horse vans, whilst the remainder of the District is dealt with by the motors. The hauls from the collecting grounds to the point of disposal vary from one quarter of a mile to four and a quarter miles. The hiring of horses has for many years proved both economical and satisfactory.

Whilst dealing with this matter I would remind your Council that the Public Health Act, 1936, gives Local Authorities powers to provide and maintain bins for the reception of household refuse at a cost to the house Owner of not more than two shillings and sixpence per bin per annum, the charge to be collected with the rates; although this procedure has not been considered by your Council, it has the advantage of standardising the bins, maintaining them in good condition, obviating the necessity of serving notices, the saving of time taken by subsequent visits, cheaper cost by purchasing in large quantities and generally react to the benefit of the householders.

Garden refuse in the Summer time causes a great increase in the bulk of refuse to collect; some Local Authorities are now providing concrete

recesses on their building estates for the deposit of garden refuse which is removed by the Cleansing Department when necessary.

### **Refuse Disposal.**

As in the previous year, the method of refuse disposal in your area continued to be by controlled tipping, all house and shop refuse is delivered at the Council's refuse tip at Skipper's Lane. The tip consists of a disused clay pit, and the covering materials used are clinker ashes and slag sand which is a waste product from the machines breaking up slag for tar macadam. The cost of the fine slag is small, but owing to the distance of the works the haulage is rather costly.

Skipper's Lane tip was opened in 1927 and has served the purpose of a cheap and ready disposal for all our refuse since that time. By the end of the year this refuse tip was nearly filled and negotiations were commenced with a view to transferring the refuse to another clay pit on the outskirts of the District. As was to be expected these negotiations were of a protracted nature and the year closed before much progress had been made, fortunately the matter was not urgent and it is hoped to report the opening of a new refuse disposal tip in my next report.

### **Street Sweeping and Watering.**

All the street sweeping continues to be done by manual labour. There are approximately 60 miles of streets within the District: 35 miles are front streets and classified roads, whilst 25 miles are paved back streets. The length of classified (County) roads is 8.3 miles, for which a grant is made by the North Riding County Council. Several short lengths of streets were added during the year owing to private streets improvements but these did not materially affect the mileage.

The average number of men employed on this work is 24, and, with slight exception, "bin" barrows are used for the collection. The new pattern orderly truck with twin bins has proved very satisfactory, and the more extended use of these is being made as circumstances permit. All front streets are cleansed once or more times each day: about 9 miles of streets are cleansed three times each week, 18.5 miles twice weekly, and about 5 miles once weekly.

Owing to the present day conditions of the surface of streets, very little street watering is necessary except in windy weather. In the Summer time the channels at the sides of the main streets are sprayed, usually in the early morning, to keep down the dust. The expenditure on this service is mostly for hired team labour and water.

During the year a new horse drawn four wheeled tank waggon was purchased. The tank is of 300 gallons capacity and is fitted with appliances for sewer flushing and channel washing. The vehicle was purchased late in the year and therefore the benefit of channel washing was not experienced.

### **Culley Cleaning.**

During the year the number of gulley cleansings was 25,346. All the street and road gulleys are cleansed at intervals of approximately three weeks. Hired team labour is employed on the work, which finds employment for two horse drawn tumbler carts and four men.

### **Sewer Flushing.**

This very necessary branch of the work receives careful attention and is carried out systematically at regular intervals in a manner somewhat similar to the cleansing of the street gulleys.

Since the water carriage system was completed there is more water flowing in the sewers, but owing to foreign bodies finding their way through water closets the danger of stoppages is increased. There was no sewer stoppage worthy of mention during the year; this was, in my opinion, mainly due to the constant attention given to the regular periodical flushing of the sewers.

### **Snow Removal.**

There were not many falls of snow to deal with in the District during the early part of the year, but we were not so fortunate from Christmas to the close of the year, quite heavy covers were experienced and owing to the holidays labour was not plentiful. The District however did not take much harm, the roads were well gritted and kept open and safe for transport; although overtime had to be worked we economised by using the gritting machine towed behind a lorry. Most of the cost will appear in the next year's Annual Report.

### **Costing.**

The costing of the various branches of the cleansing service received close and constant attention. The Ministry of Health requests all Local Authorities with populations of 20,000 and over to submit details of their Annual Costs of Refuse Collection, Disposal, Street Sweeping and Watering, and Snow Removal. For this purpose the year ends on 31st March, and in this respect differs from the main body of this report.

The latest Annual Costs Returns published by the Ministry of Health show that 376 local authorities submitted costs of Collection and Disposal of Refuse and 372 local authorities submitted costs relating to Street Cleansing.

The following is an extract from our last Annual Cleansing Costs Return sent to the Ministry of Health.

#### **Refuse Collection.**

Total number of loads collected	...	...	...	...	8,423
Total estimated tonnage collected	...	...	...	...	8,191
Weight of refuse per 1,000 population per day	...	...	...	...	14.7 cwts.
Net cost per ton collected	...	...	...	...	6/9.7d.
Net cost per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	£91.31
Net cost per 1,000 houses of premises	...	...	...	...	£352.57

#### **Refuse Disposal.**

Net cost per ton disposal	...	...	...	...	1/8.6d.
Net cost per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	£23.11
Net cost per 1,000 premises	...	...	...	...	£89.2

#### **Street Sweeping and Gulley Cleansing.**

Total square yards of surface cleansed	...	...	...	...	117,655,928
Net cost per 10,000 square yards cleansed	...	...	...	...	5/11d.
Net cost per 1,000 gullies cleansed	...	...	...	...	£11.1
Net cost per 1,000 population:—					
Sweeping	...	...	...	...	£114.3
Gulley Cleansing	...	...	...	...	£9.2

#### **Snow Removal.**

Net cost of snow removal for the year	...	...	...	...	£10
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Reviewing these costs, I find that 437 more loads of refuse were collected than in the previous year, estimated tonnage increased as also did the yield of refuse.

The net cost of refuse collected per estimated ton showed a slight decrease on the previous year. Refuse disposal costs were generally lower owing to the cost for pumping water and extra covering material at the refuse tip not being necessary as was the case in the previous year. Street Sweeping costs showed that more sweeping had been done during the year



although the cost per 10,000 square yards showed a slight reduction. The number of gulley cleansings did not vary materially from those of the previous year and neither did the cost of this work. Snow removal showed a decrease in cost owing to the heavy falls of snow not being dealt with in the period of the year under review.

The following is the average costs of the principal items taken from the latest available Ministry of Health's "Costing Returns" for 123 Urban Districts:—

Average cost of Collection per ton	...	...	...	...	7/10d.
Average cost of Disposal per ton	...	...	...	...	2/1d.
Average cost per 1,000 houses, Collection and Disposal,					'
per annum	...	...	...	...	£550
Average cost Collection per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	£153
Average cost Disposal per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	£34

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

### General Sanitary Work.

The following is a tabulated statement of the number and nature of inspections made during the year under the various acts, Orders and Byelaws in force within the Urban Area.

Inspections	Visits
Dwelling houses inspected under Inspection of District	
Regulations and Housing Acts	301
Dwelling houses (reinspection) under above	850
Dwelling houses (work in progress) under above	1,205
Dwelling houses under Public Health Act, etc.	741
Dwelling houses (reinspection) under above	1,672
Dwelling houses (work in progress) under above	902
Interviews with Builders, Owners and others	1,651
Complaints investigated	417
Inspections of—Bakehouses	25
Common lodging houses	26
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	46
Slaughterhouses	1,327
Markets and Food Stores	84
Workshops and Workplaces	56
Schools	18
Fish and Fried Fish Shops	21



Courts and Common Yards ... ..	134
Conveniences (Public) ... ..	24
Rat Infested Premises ... ..	29
Infectious Disease ... ..	277
Fumigations ... ..	165
Drain Examinations ... ..	525
Under Food and Drugs Act ... ..	67
Under Petroleum Acts ... ..	30
Scavenging and Cleansing ... ..	323
Overcrowding (Housing Act) ... ..	397
Shops (1912 to 1936 Acts) ... ..	327
Public Halls ... ..	8
Tents, Vans and Sheds ... ..	8
Miscellaneous visits not enumerated above ...	183

#### **SUMMARY OF WORK CARRIED OUT UNDER NOTICES SERVED.**

The various works, which were completed under notices served or after intimation had been given to the Owners or occupiers, are set out below:—

Number of—

Chimneys and roofs repaired ... ..	642
Spoutings and rainwater pipes renewed ... ..	449
Walls repaired or rebuilt ... ..	568
Floors relaid or repaired ... ..	1,966
Ceilings and plasters repaired ... ..	981
Window frames and sash cords repaired ... ..	602
Fireplaces repaired ... ..	273
Doors and frames repaired ... ..	889
Staircases repaired ... ..	104
Sinks and waste pipes repaired or provided ... ..	255
Setpots repaired ... ..	83
House water supplies repaired ... ..	98
Yard surfaces relaid or repaired ... ..	276
Refuse bins renewed ... ..	456
Pantries provided or improved ... ..	34
Coalhouses provided ... ..	20
Washing accommodation provided ... ..	5
Miscellaneous ... ..	8

## House Drainage.

Number of —

Drains tested, relaid or repaired	...	...	...	...	264
New gullies, traps or grids provided	...	...	...	...	324
Stoppages in drains removed by owners	...	...	...	...	43
Stoppages in drains removed by Council without notices being served	...	...	...	...	536

## Water Closets.

Number of—

Water supplies repaired	...	...	...	...	9
Cisterns renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	37
Closet basins cleansed	...	...	...	...	3
Seats and flush pipes renewed	...	...	...	...	26
Stoppages in drains removed by Owners	...	...	...	...	27
Stoppages in water closet drains removed by Council without notices being served	...	...	...	...	152
New closets provided	...	...	...	...	15

## Workshops.

Number of—

Notices received from H.M. Inspector	...	...	...	4
Rooms cleansed after intimation	...	...	...	1
Notices served on Owners or Oocupiers	...	...	...	12
Water closets provided or repaired	...	...	...	1

## Common Lodging Houses.

Number of—

Rooms inspected for cleanliness and vermin	...	...	130
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## COMPLAINTS.

The number of complaints received and attended to during the year was 417. As in previous years the greater number of these were in respect of stoppages in yard and water closet drains. Each year there is a large number of these complaints, and we encourage householders to report such stoppages as soon as possible, as it has been the custom for some years to send a man to try to remove these stoppages by plunging before any notice is served or the matter is taken up with the Owner. This arrangement has proved quite satisfactory for quite a number of years and has proved to be

the quickest and most economical way of getting rid of a most inconvenient and objectionable nuisance. It may be of interest to note that during the year, out of 751 house and water closet drains reported stopped, 688 or 91.6 per cent were cleansed by plunging and without the drains having to be exposed for inspection or broken into.

The following is a list of complaints received and attended to during the year:—

Yard and water closet drains defective and stopped	...	...	751
Rats and Vermin	...	...	55
Overcrowding (excluding applications for houses)	...	...	53
Defective water closet apparatus	...	...	33
Repairs to houses required	...	...	165
Defective sinks, water supplies and waste pipes	...	...	26
Defective Refuse bins	...	...	24
Removal of accumulations	...	...	33
Others not classified	...	...	28

### HOUSING REPAIRS AND PROGRESS.

Seven statutory notices were served under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936, all of which were complied with, whilst 29 outstanding statutory notices were also completed.

463 Informal Housing Repair Schedules were served on the owners of houses, and the number of houses thoroughly overhauled and repaired during the year including those for which schedules were outstanding in the previous year, was 452.

12 houses were demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders made under the Housing Act, 1936, during the previous year.

The work of measuring houses and the preparation of "Permitted Number" certificates under the Housing Act, 1936, Section 62 (2) which was well advanced at the end of the previous year was completed early in the year under review, 314 certificates being issued. As new houses have become tenanted they have been measured and certificates issued to the owners, who in many cases are also the occupiers. The total number of "Permitted Number" certificates issued by the end of the year was 7,860.

Owing to the continued building of houses by your Council and the impossibility of interviewing applicants for houses, the flow of letters of application referred to in my previous report continued unabated and by the end of the year 511 such letters had been received. Very few of these were from families genuinely overcrowded, many and varied causes of illness, generally supported by medical certificates, were stressed as the cause of need for a Council house. All letters of application were registered and acknowledged, many applicants being very persistent and requiring several letters which added greatly to the work of the Department.

### **SHOPS.**

The chief Acts of Parliament governing the administration of shops are the Act of 1912 which, broadly speaking, provided for the closure of shops on one half day each week, assistants' half day holidays, intervals for meals, etc., The Shops Act, 1928, which deals mainly with closing hours, The Shops Act, 1934, which provides for the health and comfort of the employees, including the provision of sanitary accommodation, washing facilities, accommodation for taking meals, seats for female assistants, ventilation, light, temperature and limiting the hours during which young persons may be employed, and The Shops (Sunday Trading Restrictions) Act, 1936, which prevents the sale of certain articles on Sundays. It is unfortunate that the opportunity was not taken to enforce total closing (except in specified districts and resorts). The Act contains a long schedule of exempted goods but these were reduced slightly after 1st February, 1938, by the second part of the schedule which prohibits the sale of bread, rolls, fancy bread and other flour confectionery and provisions usually sold in a grocer's shop. When these restrictions became operative an extract of the exempted goods schedule was distributed to the shops found open on Sundays. It is not sure that all shops opening on Sundays received a copy as the hours of opening and closing vary so widely, some open in the morning only, some do not open until mid-day, whilst others only open during the evening. As far as possible all shops have been warned regarding the time of closing.

The Sunday Act provides for compensatory holidays for assistants working on that day, consequently the larger shops which did open have closed as the compensatory holiday disorganises the business during the week. It is mostly the small and house shops which are now kept open on Sundays.

Informal action by letters and intimations was responsible for securing improvements at many shops in the way of washing facilities, sanitary accommodation and provision for the taking of meals. This has proved much more effective than the service of notices and good progress has been made.



The administration of the various Shops Acts received much time and attention during the year. Regular patrol observations are carried out after the hours of general closing on at least two nights each week and half day closing observations are made mostly on Wednesdays after the hour of closing. 327 visits and observations were recorded during the year and many warnings given when breaches of the Acts were observed.

Legal proceedings were taken during the year concerning the serving of customers after closing hours and also for the working of young persons for longer than the prescribed hours and not allowing intervals for meals. The cases were heard at the South Bank Police Court and although the offences were proved the Magistrates decided that "Costs" and a warning were sufficient. Evidence was being prepared for a prosecution in connection with a breach of the hours of employment of young persons under the Shops Act, 1934, when, owing to the death of the proprietor no further action was taken.

It is to be regretted that there is no shops legislation at present limiting the hours of employment of shop assistants other than young persons. There are still many girls and youths, possibly just turned eighteen years of age, who are working from 8.30 or 9.0 a.m. until 9.30 and 10.0 p.m., a total of 70 or more hours per week.

The rigid administration of the various Shops Acts is a very difficult matter, many surprising decisions of the Courts having tended to increase rather than decrease the difficulties, whilst the wording of these Acts has been severely criticised even in the Higher Courts.

## **INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.**

### **Milk Supply.**

#### **Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops:**

The number of retail purveyors of milk on the register at the end of the year was 39 excluding retailers of sealed sterilized bottled milk. The number of wholesalers and producers in the District is 27. The number of cowsheds is 14. The number of dairy cows kept by producers in the District is approximately 125.

During the year 46 visits were made to cowsheds and purveyors' premises and a further 67 casual visits were made, usually for the purpose of taking milk samples.



There was a reduction in the number of new milk retailers in the District at the end of the year. This is accounted for by the number of people being supplied with pasteurised milk from a dairy in the adjoining County Borough and also the increased sale of sterilized milk in sealed bottles. Two farms sent all their milk to the pasteurising plant referred to above. The number of vendors selling only sterilized milk in sealed bottles increased and most small general stores now sell this milk. It is not prepared in this District but is delivered in pint and half pint bottles by motor truck twice or three times each week. Periodical visits were made to the premises of persons retailing small quantities of loose milk to ensure that care was taken to prevent it being contaminated whilst waiting to be sold.

The cowsheds in the area are now in a reasonably up-to-date and satisfactory condition, special attention is given to these during the Spring and Autumn to see that they are thoroughly lime washed when the cows are turned out for the Summer or brought in for the Winter.

There are no premises in the District licensed under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936. Two dairies having premises outside the District hold supplementary licences to sell "Pasteurised" milk in the Eston Urban Area.

### **Milk Sampling.**

123 samples of new milk were taken for analysis: of these 44 were tested for B. Coli and Bacterial Count and the remainder were examined for fat content, added water and dirt content.

The 44 samples referred to were examined at the North Riding Laboratory at Scarborough and showed 32 samples to contain Coliform Bacillus. In all cases further samples were taken and the co-operation of the producers sought. In 22 of the 32 cases the milk was produced outside the District and both the producers and the appropriate officers of the local authority concerned were notified. It was surprising to find that in two cases of "Pasteurised" milk and in four cases of "Accredited" milk Coliform Bacillus was found. Referring to the farms in our own District 5 repeat samples were taken at one farm and four at another before certificates were received from the Analyst showing the absence of Coliform Bacillus.

All the 44 samples were examined for Bacterial count, the lowest count recorded for ordinary new morning milk delivered direct from the farm and sampled in the street was 730. The highest Bacterial count recorded was 128,600 and the average for all samples was 78,898, which, although being slightly higher than that for the previous year, may be considered reasonably satisfactory.

Of the 79 samples of new milk tested for fat content, etc., none were found to fall below the standard set up in the Milk Regulations, 1901 (3 per cent), whilst the average fat content for all the samples taken was 3.6 per cent, which is very satisfactory.

6 samples contained 3.0 per cent of fat.					
8	..	..	3.1	..	..
15	..	..	3.2	..	..
15	..	..	3.3	..	..
4	..	..	3.4	..	..
7	..	..	3.5	..	..
4	..	..	3.6	..	..
4	..	..	3.7	..	..
3	..	..	3.8	..	..
3	..	..	3.9	..	..
1 sample		..	4.1	..	..
3 samples		..	4.2	..	..
1 sample		..	4.6	..	..
1	..	..	4.8	..	..
1	..	..	4.9	..	..
1	..	..	5.3	..	..
1	..	..	5.5	..	..
1	..	..	5.7	..	..

All these samples were taken informally and tested in the Department. The milk was passed through cotton wool filter pads to ascertain the dirt content, and where this appeared excessive, the matter was taken up with the vendors.

### MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The inspection of meat and other foods continued to receive close attention during the year. This will be appreciated by the number of inspections made for the purpose. 1,457 visits were made to slaughterhouses, bakehouses, fish shops, markets and food stores, to inspect the various foods either in preparation, being stored, or exposed for sale.

1,327 visits were made to slaughterhouses whilst slaughtering was in progress or immediately afterwards, to inspect the carcasses and internal organs before removal from the premises so that the examinations may be complete. This is very desirable in case any incisions have to be made as it causes much less mutilation if this is done before rigour mortis sets in. During the Summer months much of the slaughtering is delayed until the evening in order to assist the setting of the carcasses. This, of course, entails evening inspections during the hot weather.

The driving of cattle from the markets has now almost ceased, most cattle, sheep and pigs are brought to the slaughterhouses in motor vans which is more humane and more profitable to the butcher as the meat both sets and keeps better when the animals are killed whilst in a quiet and rested condition.

The total number of animal carcasses examined during the year was 4,775, viz:—

	Cattle (excluding cows)	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed ...	766	36	36	2617	1320
Whole carcasses condemned for Tuberculosis ...	1	—	—	1	1

The total number of animal carcasses inspected shows a slight increase (285) on those of the previous year.

30 persons other than butchers killed and sold privately 42 pigs, most of these were killed on small holdings and allotments and were sold from private houses. The rearing, killing and selling of pigs in small joints to neighbours and friends is fast dying out and this year shows a further reduction on the previous year of the number of pigs dealt with in this way.

### **Bakehouses.**

25 visits were made to bakehouses to inspect for cleanliness. I am pleased to record that a high standard of cleanliness and baking exists in the bakehouses in the District and in consequence it was not found necessary to serve any notices on the occupiers of these premises during the year; any suggestion or intimation to the occupiers was sufficient to have the desired effect.

### **Fish Shops.**

21 visits were made to wet and fried fish shops to inspect the premises and food stored or in preparation for sale. All the fish for frying and almost all that for sale uncooked now arrives gutted and without heads owing to the establishment of fish offal plants at the ports. Most of the fish sold in the Area is consigned from West Hartlepool and is delivered by motor, and as the journey takes less than an hour, the fish is received in a firm and fresh condition each day. It was not found necessary to take any action at any of these places and no complaints were received regarding the quality of the fish.

## Markets and Food Stores.

84 visits were made to markets and food stores to inspect the various foods being prepared, stored or exposed for sale.

The South Bank street market, held on Fridays, is the only market held in the District, and the produce is always inspected once or more times in the course of the market hours. The greatest trouble is experienced during the soft fruit season, and although 374 lbs. of fruit were surrendered on the market and destroyed, this does not represent the amount of unsound fruit brought to the market for sale. Owing to the market being held on a Friday, many of the fruit warehouses outside the District find that they have stocks of fruit which will not keep over the week-end, and employ men to bring it to the market to sell for what they can get for it. When such fruit is found to be unsound, the salesmen are allowed the preference of taking it back or surrendering it, and as they must give an account of its disposal on their return, they usually prefer to take it back to the warehouse. There was no trouble with the stallholders of any note, but in view of the conditions under which the market is held, a great deal of tact has to be used in handling the various difficulties relating to stands, length of stalls, pitching, and refuse, etc.

During the year periodical visits were made to the fruit shops and grocers, the former to ensure the sorting and disposal of the unsound fruit, and the latter to inspect, among other things, tinned goods, bacon, etc. Owing to improved methods of handling, packing and transport, there is now much less unsound fruit and vegetables exposed for sale than in past years. The same applies in many ways to tinned goods and bacon, grocers now receive credit for defective tinned goods on returning them or even the labels, whilst owing to the increased use of home cured bacon, delivery by motor transport and quick sale, smaller quantities are stocked and the risk of it becoming unsound is reduced to a minimum.

The total amount of meat and food which on examination was found to be diseased, unsound, unmarketable or unfit for the food of man, and which was voluntarily surrendered and destroyed under supervision, is set out in detail below:—

## Food Surrendered and Destroyed.

		Approx. lbs. weight
<b>English Meat:</b>		
Beef:		
1 whole carcase and internal organs ...	...	620
Heads, Livers, Lungs and Stomachs ...	...	477



Mutton:

1 whole carcase ...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Lungs and Livers	...	...	...	...	...	15

**Pork:**

1 whole carcase and internal organs ...	...	...	...	154
Heads, Livers, Lungs and Stomachs ...	...	...	...	48

**Miscellaneous:**

3 tins condensed milk ...	...	...	...	...	3
45 baskets Bilberries ...	...	...	...	...	270
51 baskets Brambles ...	...	...	...	...	104
Total					1721

The total approximate weight of food surrendered was 15 cwt. 2 stones 13 pounds, which is slightly less than the weight of that in the previous year. The amount of food surrendered is very small for an Urban Area of our population, and is no doubt due to the regular system of inspection and the co-operation of the traders.

The disposal of unsound food was satisfactorily continued as in the previous year. Beef carcasses are sent to a waste utilisation plant in an adjoining area, whilst the smaller carcasses of sheep and pigs, together with joints of meat, offals, fruit, etc., are destroyed in the furnaces of the South Bank Gas Company, to whom we owe thanks for their generosity in allowing us to dispose of this material in such a handy and economical manner.

### **PUBLIC HEALTH (MEAT) REGULATIONS, 1925.**

The year under review was the thirteenth complete annual record of the working of these important Regulations.

Under these Regulations, persons are required to give notice of the intended slaughter of any animal for sale for food unless regular times and days have been notified. During the year 49 notifications of the slaughter of 89 animals were received and in all cases the carcasses were examined. The number of notifications of slaughter has gradually declined during the past two or three years owing to the regular routine inspection of slaughtering by butchers and the decrease in the number of private persons killing animals, mostly pigs, privately.



Previous to these Regulations coming into force, there was neither record nor inspection of most of these slaughters, and consequently no safeguard to the consumers. There was no breach of the Regulations of sufficient importance to report to your Council during the year; the persons affected are now aware of the requirements and very little trouble is experienced.

### **SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.**

This Act, which came into operation in January, 1934, was made for the prevention of cruelty to animals in slaughterhouses. It requires the licensing of slaughtermen and prohibits any person under 18 years of age from slaughtering animals. 32 persons are registered within the District for this purpose. The use of a mechanically operated instrument is now necessary for the stunning of all animals in slaughterhouses. Previous to 1935, sheep were excluded from the provisions of the Act, but during that year the necessary resolution to include sheep was passed after an application for this had been received from the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and after demonstrations in slaughterhouses had been carried out by their Inspectors. No breach of the Act was found during the 1,327 visits which were made to slaughterhouses. This is commendable and illustrates the butchers' attitude towards the use of the humane killer which, when introduced, was strenuously opposed by a small section of the trade. It is to be regretted that further action has not been taken by the Authorities to extend the provisions of the Act so as to include the humane slaughtering of all animals intended for food wherever the slaughtering takes place.

### **SLAUGHTERHOUSES.**

The following statement shows the number of slaughterhouses in the District:—

District						Slaughterhouses	
						Licensed	Not Licensed
South Bank	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
Grangetown	...	...	...	...	...	3	—
Eston	...	...	...	...	...	3	—
Normanby	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
						9	2

All slaughterhouses are regularly visited, as will be seen by the number of inspections made in connection with meat inspection. Generally speaking, these places are conducted in a satisfactory manner and kept reasonably clean by a liberal number of limewashings. Any verbal intimation of any matter needing attention was rectified without delay. During the year there was no complaint worthy of mention to your Council.

## OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Offensive trades, as enumerated in Section 107, Public Health Act, 1936, and specifically mentioned in the Byelaws relating to offensive trades which were allowed by the Minister of Health on the 7th day of April, 1932, are negligible in the Urban Area. Several of the butchers clean the "guts" of the animals they kill for their own use as sausage casings, but there is no labour solely employed in connection with offensive trades in the Area.

Attention may here be drawn to the provisions of Section 108, Public Health Act, 1936, which empowers Urban Authorities to make Byelaws with respect to the trade or business of fish frying carried on or in any premises or street within their District in order to prevent any noxious or injurious effects of the trade or business. At present there are no such byelaws in this District and it may appear that this matter should receive consideration when new byelaws are contemplated.

## ADULTERATION OF FOODS.

Throughout the year I had very little reason for suspecting the adulteration of any foods. My attention was drawn to cases of persons having bought stale or sour cooked meats and tinned goods. In each case the vendor's premises were visited and an examination of the stocks made, whilst the purchasers, in every case, received satisfaction.

With the exception of milk no samples were taken under the Artificial Cream Act or the Dried Milk or Preservative Regulations.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASE PREVENTION.

442 visits were made in connection with infectious disease. All cases enumerated in the report of the Medical Officer of Health were visited as early as possible after notification, and full enquiries were made with a view to tracing the source of the infection. The fumigation of the premises, together with such bedding and clothing as was necessary, was carried out as speedily as possible.

The following is an analysis of the premises disinfected during the year:—

Houses	Rooms	Cause
18	28	Erysipelas
79	316	Scarlet Fever.
14	40	Diphtheria.
24	79	Tuberculosis.
9	26	Other medical causes.
72	201	Other causes.
<hr/> 216	<hr/> 690	

165 lots of old or verminous bedding were removed and destroyed at the requests of the owners. 131 rooms were sprayed by tenants, mostly for verminous conditions, and 7,155 bottles of disinfectant were issued from the office of the Department.

Any request to remove or destroy bedding or other goods must be accompanied by a card intimating that no application will be made for compensation of any kind. Where tenants report that there is vermin on the premises, sprayers and insecticides are provided free, and instructions are given for their use. It is also the practice to visit the premises to make an inspection and give any further advice, but if the premises are found to be badly infested, it is usual to make a charge and have the fumigation carried out by a member of the staff.

The question of prevention and disinfestation of houses where there is vermin, and more particularly bed bugs, continues to cause a great deal of anxiety. Once a house becomes seriously infested, it is most difficult to get it clear, and unless the tenant co-operates in the attempt by a thorough cleaning and continual watching for their appearance, the task is almost hopeless. Many insecticides and fumigants are now on the market for the purpose, but owing to the difficulty of getting to the hiding places, several applications of fumigants and sprayed insecticides are necessary, the removal of skirtings and back moulds is necessary and the immediate use of a blow lamp is of the greatest assistance; this entails both time, labour and expense before the premises can be cleared of the vermin.

### **COMMON LODGING HOUSES.**

During the year 26 visits were made to the one remaining common lodging house in the District to see that the Byelaws were being observed. The premises are well conducted and the cleansing of the floors and bedding, the ventilation and limewashing all receive continual attention.

There was no complaint to make during the year respecting the conduct or cleanliness of the lodging house.

The accommodation has always been in excess of the requirements: there are 6 rooms containing 46 beds, the average number of lodgers being 35.

## **FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES,**

As stated in my opening remarks of this report a new Factory Act, to consolidate, with amendments, the Factory and Workshops Acts, 1901 to 1929, became operative on 1st July, 1938. Under the new Act the term "Workshop" disappears and a Factory is described as any premises in which, or within the close or curtilage or precincts of which persons are employed in manual labour in any process for or incidental to the making of any article or part of any article or the altering, repairing, ornamenting, finishing, cleaning or washing, or the breaking up or demolition of any article or the adapting for sale of any article by way of trade or for the purposes of gain.

The above description is a brief explanation of the term "Factory" from which it will be seen that many premises are now termed Factories which were previously registered as Workshops. Broadly speaking, it is still the duty of Local Authorities to enforce various general provisions for protecting the health of persons employed in Factories where mechanical power is not used, also as regards fire escapes, outworkers and homework in unwholesome premises.

It should be noted that only part of the Factory Act, 1937, is administered by your Council, the remainder comes under the supervision of H.M. Inspector of Factories.

The part of the Act administered by the Local Authority is Part I. (except lighting). This includes cleanliness, overcrowding, temperature, ventilation, drainage of floors, and sanitary conveniences. Many Rules and Orders have been issued by the Secretary of State since the Act was passed and as the year was well advanced before it was possible to fully realise the true requirements, I will be in a better position to discuss the working of the Act as it affects practice in my next year's report.

During the year under review there were not many breaches of the provisions of the old Act brought to my notice, such recorded action as was taken is shown under Factories Inspections.

81 visits were made to inspect bakehouses, factories, workshops and workplaces, 25 special visits were made to bakehouses at stated periods to see that limewashing and cleansing had been carried out.

There is only one "outworker" as defined by the Factory Act in the Area, and in this case the work is of an intermittant nature.



## **PETROLEUM STORAGE.**

The storage of Petroleum Spirit and Carbide of Calcium had constant attention during the year, most of the visits being of an informal nature. On 30 visits a thorough inspection of the storage tanks, ventilating pipes and other apparatus was made.

There are 32 premises on which Petroleum Spirit or Carbide of Calcium are stored. The number of licences in operation at the end of the year was 25 for Petroleum Spirit and 7 for Carbide of Calcium.

The total Petroleum storage accommodation in the District for which licences are held amounts to 3,463,280 gallons, and the licensed quantity of Carbide of Calcium is 10,308 lbs.; at one store 60 gallons of Cellulose is stored in accordance with the Cellulose Solutions Regulations of the Factory and Petroleum Consolidation Acts. The total income from these licences was £32, viz:—Petroleum £29 15s. 0d., and Carbide of Calcium £2 5s. 0d.

## **RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION.**

29 visits were made in connection with complaints of rat infestation.

The suppression of rats and mice under the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919, had my attention whenever any premises came to my notice which were alleged to be infested. In many cases drainage and building defects were the cause of infestation, and repairs were found to be effectual, but I must record that in several cases investigated no infestation or trace of rats could be found, and it could only be assumed that a wandering rat was the cause of the complaint.

Redsquill, rat lime, biscuits and phosphorous paste are the poisons most effectual. Any complaint received is attended to at once, and advice on the use of poisons, etc., is given. In most cases the premises are revisited to ascertain the results of any measures taken.

## **PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936 (Section 154)**

The above section of the Act named replaces Section 73 of the Public Health Act, 1925, and refers to restrictions on sales, etc., by persons collecting, or dealing in, old clothes or similar articles.

Section 73 (now repealed) prohibited the distribution of any article of food or any balloon or other toy from any cart, barrow or other vehicle used for the collection of rags, bones, etc.



Section 154, quoted above, prohibits any person, either from a shop or other premises, or while engaged in collecting any such articles, from selling or delivering, whether gratuitously or not, any article of food or drink to any person, or any article whatsoever to a person under the age of 14 years. Any person who contravenes any of the provisions of this Section shall be liable to a fine not exceeding five pounds.

The administration of this Section of the Act was delegated to me by your Council some time ago with power to take legal proceedings against offenders. In this the Police have co-operated by observations which I appreciate. During the year no case of a breach of the requirements came to my notice.

### **CONCLUSION.**

From the foregoing report it will be seen that the various branches of your Sanitary and Cleansing Department continue to receive close attention; increasing demands for reports, statistics, costs, returns, etc., together with the enormous amount of recording under the Housing Acts and specification work in connection with the official representations and informal schedules for the repair of houses, have greatly increased administration work, whilst the supervision of extensive repairs and reconditioning of houses takes a great deal of time in inspecting and arranging the work. New houses and streets have increased the cleansing work considerably.

I would again avail myself of this opportunity of expressing my indebtedness to the Chairman of the Council, the Chairman of the Public Health Committee, the Medical Officer of Health, and the officials and staff of the Council for the help I have at all times received in the discharge of my many duties.

I am, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your most obedient servant,

WILLIAM LINSLEY,

Senior Sanitary Inspector  
and Cleansing Superintendent.

May, 1939.





